New Idea 844 4-row corn head is fitted with flail choppers, cross auger, and blower.

ELIMINATES NEED TO MAKE SEPARATE PASS

Combine Harvests Shelled Corn And Stalks

"We think this combine's so valuable it's the only machine on our farm that we keep inside a heated building," says Dan Walder, Wittenberg, Wis., about the New Idea Uni-System harvester he uses to harvest shelled corn and stalks at the same time.

It consists of a New Idea 844 4-row corn head fitted with flail choppers, a cross auger, and blower. The flails shred the stalks and cut them off at the same time. The header-mounted blower, which came off a New Holland silage chopper, sends chopped stalks back to a trailing wagon while a rear-mounted blower sends cobs, husks, and chaff into the wagon.

"It eliminates the need to make a separate pass with a flail chopper to chop stalks and makes a much better feed because it collects all the cobs, husks, and leaves," says Walder, who built the machine with help from his son Mark.

There are flail knives behind each set of gathering chains on the header. Each flail is positioned inside a 3 1/2-ft. long steel enclosure that holds the stalk straight up instead of allowing it to bend over onto the ground out of reach of the flails. Flails are driven by a chain-driven driveshaft. Walder used a series of short pieces of driveshaft rather than one long shaft because of the amount of stress on the shaft.

"We welded three knives off an International flail chopper into the blower in order to cut up the stalks even more. The blower is belt-driven off a right angle transmission that's chain-driven off the cylinder. We moved all the header's bottom drive shafts up to make room for the 10-ft. long cross auger. The cross auger is chain-driven off a shaft on the header.

Header-mounted blower sends chopped stalks back into wagon. Rear-mounted blower delivers cobs, husks, and chaff.

"The limiting factor now is that the cross auger can't handle too many stalks or it'll plug up. We have to go at a walking speed which is much slower than we would go with a conventional combine. It takes 10 to 15 minutes to fill the wagon. The engine has to work hard. We may repower it with a bigger diesel engine. We blow stalks into our silage bagger and use them for bedding and for feed. Cows eat it right up."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan and Mark Walder, 1525 S. Cty. Rd. I, Wittenberg, Wis. 54499 (ph 715 454-6458).

Flail knives mount behind each set of gathering chains on header.

Easy Way To "Self-Propel" Auger

"It lets me move my auger by myself without almost no effort at all," says Brian Yokimas who came up with a simple way to "self-propel" his grain auger using a pickup rear axle and a junked hydraulic motor.

"There are commercial units available to drive augers, but they can cost as much as $2,500," notes the East Selkirk, Manitoba, grain farmer. "This whole project cost me only about $100. Everybody who's seen it is quite impressed. All the neighbors want one like it."

Yokimas replaced the wheels on his 8-in. by 26-ft. Westfield auger with the rear axle from a 1970 Ford pickup. The rear end had the ideal combination of low speed and high torque he wanted. He mounted a low speed hydraulic motor on a steel plate that bolts to the rear end (using four existing bolt holes). The motor is fitted with a 10-tooth #50 sprocket that's used to chain drive a 60-tooth sprocket that mounts on the rear end's pinion yoke.

"I simply plumbed the hydraulic motor and a two-way electric control valve into the 7 gpm hydraulic pump that drives the auger's bin sweep," he says.

He controls the valve with about 10 ft. of electrical cord and a spring-loaded toggle switch. To make sure it works in even the coldest weather, he replaced the differential oil with automatic transmission fluid.

"I've emptied five 1,600 to 4,000 bu. bins full of canola with it since I self-propelled it last fall and it works like a charm," Yokimas says. "I only wish I'd done it years ago."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Yokimas, Rt. 1, East Selkirk, Manitoba, Canada ROE OMO (SASE only).

Water-filled steel tank will fit all 4-WD tractors with planetary wheel systems.

Water-Filled Wheel Weights

You can reduce compaction and tire wear with this new "water weight" system for 4-WD tractors that allows you to increase or decrease wheel weight in minutes as field conditions dictate.

The AddTrac system from Trellco Tire, Cleveland, N. Dak., consists of a water-filled steel tank with self-locking wedges that allow installation in 10 minutes per wheel. It's custom-designed in sizes to fit all 4-WD tractors with planetary wheel systems. It fits flush with the outer edge of tires and eliminates the need for fluid in tires or suitcase weights.

Simply add or drain water to increase or decrease weight as field conditions and operations call for.

Smallest system, for 24.5 by 32-in. tires, adds a total of 2,100 lbs.; largest, for 850 by 42-in. tires, adds 6,500 lbs.

Sells for $1,600 to $2,400 for set of four.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Trellco Tire, 3901 65th Ave. S.E., Cleveland, N. Dak. 58424 (ph 800 763-2383).